

09/100,338

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	BEN J. SLOAN and WILLIAM G. REED	
Serial No.	To be Determined	
Filed:	Herewith	
For:	TEMPERATURE CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD WITH RECIRCULATED COOLANT	Docket No. FSI0022/US/3

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the following added paragraph: This is a division of Application Serial No. 09/100,338, filed January 7, 1998, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/184,681, filed January 21, 1994, which was abandoned by assignee, but erroneously issued as U.S. Pat. No. 5,706,890.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-26

Please add the following new claims:

27. (new) A process for individually regulating the temperatures of a plurality of workstations each to an individual predetermined temperature, each workstation for performing an operation on work medium at said workstation, comprising the steps of:

providing a temperature controlling fluid from a source to each of the plurality of workstations,

monitoring the temperature at each individual workstation and

independently controlling heating of the fluid provided to each individual station in accordance with information comprising a differential between the predetermined temperature and a temperature at each of the respective workstations.

28. (new) The process of claim 27 further comprising the step of transporting an amount of the fluid to a workstation through a bypass conduit that bypasses a heater corresponding to the workstation.

29. (new) A temperature control system for individually regulating the temperatures of a plurality of semiconductor workstations, the temperature control system comprising:

a central source of a temperature regulating fluid in flow communication with each of the plurality of workstations for transporting fluid to each workstation and independently controlling temperature at each workstation, and

a plurality of heaters, each heater being associated with a workstation in a manner effective to heat the fluid transported to one of the individual workstations from the central source, whereby the temperature of the fluid provided to each workstation is controlled independently of fluid transported to other workstations of the system.

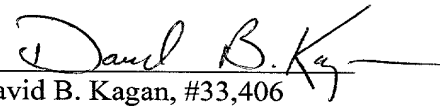
30. (new) The temperature control system of claim 29, wherein each workstation is independently controlled at a desired temperature, and wherein the fluid at the central source is at a temperature that is lower than any of the desired temperatures.

31. (new) The temperature control system of claim 29, further comprising a bypass conduit for at least one of the workstations allowing the fluid transported to said workstation to bypass the heater corresponding to the particular workstation.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are now in condition for allowance. Approval of the application and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited. In the event that a phone conference between the examiner and the Applicant's undersigned attorney would help resolve any remaining issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact said attorney at (651) 275-9804.

Respectfully Submitted,

By:


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